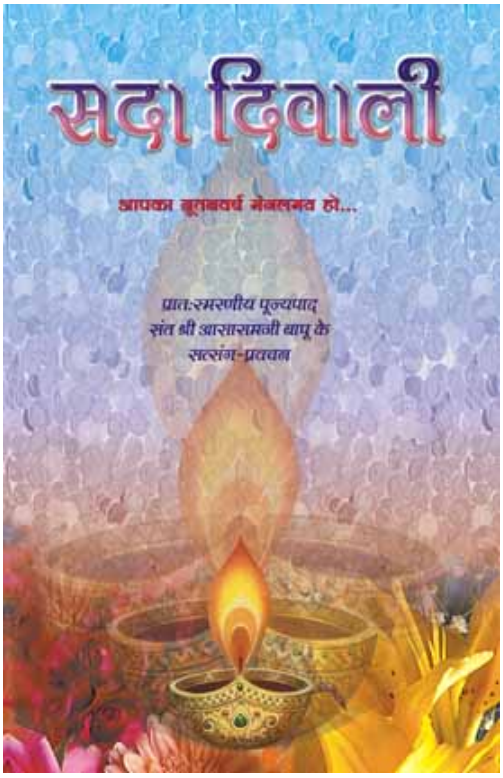

Satsang-excerpts of Param Pujya Sant Shri Asaramji Bapu

Dhan Teras (**13th day** of the Lunar cycle, symbolizing Dhan - prosperity), Kali Chaudas (14th day), Diwali (signifying "Diwa" meaning light to cast off the darkness), New Years (New Moon), and Bhai Dooj (2nd day, devoted to honor ones brother) . . . these festivities combine to form the festival of Diwali!

Diwali - the celebration that fosters resolve in the body, enthusiasm in the heart, excitement in the mind and firmness in thinking . . . dissolution of enmity and resolution of love, stream of compassion . . . good bye to the dark twilight of the unpleasant past and welcome to the bright, cheerful dawn of the future . . . new year, new beginnings . . . newly forming euphoria, newfound courage . . . sacrifice, exhilaration, delight, elevated spirits - all indications of the festival of Diwali . . . !

What better way to begin the new day of your New Year than with a blissful sip of self-knowledge?

"Pratahsmaraami hridi . . . . . Na Cha Bhutsanghah!"

"At the onset of this new day, I recollect the inspiring Self nestled within my beating heart . . . That Self which is Satchidananda in context, the ultimate destination of the enlightened ones, a supreme state of mind that transcends all other states of

consciousness . . . The One who always recognizes and rises above consciousness, sub-consciousness, and the dreaming stage in between - that purity personified am I. This mortal body formed out of the basic five elements, I am not. . !

I meditate upon the unwavering, blissful consciousness; the one that remains steadfast amidst the fleeting stages of wakefulness, slumber, and the state in between. For that is my intrinsic nature. The physical laws may bring about changes in the body, the mind may frequently change its behaviors, the brain may often falter from its own decisions - however, the only one that never changes, that immortal Self is I.! No wonder, considering the fact that I am the offspring of none other than The One and Only Almighty!"

Thus contemplating, an aspirant soon reaches a stage where he remains unaffected by the impressions of the world. A stained mind is its own fallacy, exuberance its virtue; therefore seek cheerfulness and equanimity in all circumstances. Become not a sustainer but rather an abstainer of likes and dislikes. A Self-Realized Satguru is the only worthy abode of total faith and surrender. All others are unworthy of obsessive trust and distrust.

Be kind-hearted when engaging with young ones and respectful with your superiors. When blessed with fortunate encounters with Self-Realized Noble Souls, however, surrender with complete humility, bhakti, and modesty. Deal with compassion with those at par - the kind that overflowed from Sri Ram's loving heart. When unable to influence obstinate people for the better, save your precious time rather than continuing to waste it over foregone causes. Be generous to those in your service or in your refuge, while simultaneously keeping a watchful eye on them! Learn to be tolerant, although careful, of your primary coordinators, those that may have access to your personal and confidential information.

Be neither too naive, nor over smart. Extreme naive may invite injustice; over cleverness will foster attraction towards materialism. Thus neither extreme is preferable. Engage not with greedy, confrontational, dumb-witted people. Disengage never from the benign company of the benevolent, sacrificing, and the charitable. Do not be haughty upon successful completion of your initiatives, yet, be not mournful of failures in your undertakings.

The meek should not be adversarial with the mighty, and the guilty should not oppose those who know their secrets. A servant should confront not the Master; the pious confront not the evil. The destitute should not take on the opulent, the clown should not humor the brave, a sycophant should not mess with the Emperor, the diseased with the Physician, and likewise, the starving mess not with the feeder. Those that avoid confrontation with these nine categories of people generally live a reasonably satisfactory life.

Do not indulge in excessive greed, but also avoid being stupid and careless in dealing with the world. Use judgment, intellect, and toil as means to earn an honest living. Intense efforts, as

long as they are in line with Dharma, the virtuous path, are allowable for earning livelihood. Wealth gained by abusing the poor and the downtrodden miserably fails in delivering peace and joy.

Sri Laxmiji bestows prosperity only upon the diligent and the industrious, seldom upon the lazy and the indolent. It goes without saying that the wealthy and the prosperous are venerable to the high classes of the society, as symbolized by the elephant honoring Sri Laxmiji with a garland of flowers.

Incidentally, one may notice an owl near Sri Laxmiji. This owl indicates that the rich and the famous, if without a Satguru in their lives (and thus lacking the highest directive), live in the unfortunate proximity of ego and ignorance. Thus, the owl suggests the necessity to always seek noble, virtuous company. Surrender at the redeeming feet of those who will straighten us and put us back on the right course.

Flatterers are to be found a-dime-a-dozen, but rare are those tall characters - themselves walking firmly on the path Self-Realization as well as fearlessly showing others their foibles so they too may be drawn towards the same lofty goal. One should purposely and reverently seek the blessed company of such wise ones. Similar in the way that Sri Ram received elders with humility, welcomed the young ones with grace, met social equals with compassion, and rejected the unworthy. This age-old prescription is a necessary code of conduct for the wholesome development of life.

Every morning, decidedly declare, "I am exactly the way I ought to be. And beyond this, if there are any shortcomings in me, I shall eliminate them!" Try once, try again, and try yet again - undoubtedly success shall be yours! Incessantly remind yourself, "Death I know not; death is for this mortal body, which is merely my outer shell. Weak I have never been; weak and strong becomes the body, not me! I am the liberated soul, free from all bondage, essentially part and parcel of the God Almighty since times immemorial. I am made up of my

Satguru's knowledge, wisdom, grace; firmly grounded, unshakable, unaffected by the world. The one that may be shook-up is the body, the mind is the one that may be affected, not me!"

"I simply witness the body and the mind, steadfast in my own consciousness. I do not seek magnanimity by means of a colossal mansion, expansion of business or spreading the boundaries of my state or the nation. As it is already, I am the boundless, the infinite!

All boundaries exist only in Maya, the dark abyss of ignorance; as for me - I am limitless! I am all set for a worry-free life in a boundless country. Those who lived catering to the ego, under the protection of physical boundaries did end up departing indeed, leaving their mighty domains behind. Such artificial boundaries ruled by the ego do not impress me, for I pursue only the one - the all-pervasive, all-encompassing Soul - The Atma!"

Thus contemplating, a seeker attains the state of mind that allows him the blissful experience of oneness with the Atma, the Self.

The immature believe in exerting power in order to establish rule, not realizing that it is Love, not Force, that conquers all. However, Love and compassion need the balance of wisdom and judgement. Likewise, service offering needs to be tempered with knowledge and discretion. And amusingly enough, wisdom, Gyaan, is inadequate and imperfect without Love! Science on the other hand, needs both feet to stand upon - wisdom and compassion.

First, strive to become a human in its real sense, and then seek to uplift fellow beings. Such irony that mankind invests billions of dollars in creating bombs and weapons intended for the annihilation of none other than mankind - on massive scales! Just envision the paradise that this planet will turn into if Kings and Politicians led the public in a way that a Satguru leads the masses...

Our gratitude for the ancient Seers who had the foresight to conceive of festivals such as Diwali aimed at bringing about amity and unity amongst human beings while fostering collaboration for awakening the dormant forces hidden within individuals. Our humble

gratitude to them for devising numerous ways and means of uniting the Jivatma - the isolated fragment, with the Paramatma - the indivisible totality - The Self!

"Yo Yadrishyen Bhaven . . . . . Tasya Varsham Prayaati Vai"

The advice given by Veda Vyaasji, the primeval Guru, to Emperor Yudhisthir validates, "If you cherish this first day of the year cheerfully, the entire year will find you cheerful. Choosing instead, to spend this good day in anguish and dismay, you may find the rest of the year consumed with anxiety". As is the morning, so goes your day. Likening the first day to the dawn of the New Year, as goes your first day, so will generally be the rest of your year.

A trader may use this day to consider which commodities sustained losses, which inventory merely gathered dust on the shelves, and which goods yielded handsome profits. Based on that analysis, the tradesman then may decide which line of business to discontinue and which one to pursue further. In a similar way, devotees and seekers should evaluate which particular events and actions triggered misery, doubt and

disruption in their minds; bringing them shame and humiliation in the eyes of God, Guru, Scriptures, and their own Self. Obviously, such thoughts, actions, events, alliances should be urgently discontinued; making room for those that bring about inner peace through compliance with Guru's grace, God's will and a virtuous path.

Consider this day as the opening page of your annual diary. Take a quick look at last year's balance sheet to determine your profit and loss statement. In other words, peruse through the previous year's accomplishments and setbacks to gauge your position. Then determine how you want to live your life going forward. Do not count on becoming what you wish to become in the future without getting started today! Right now, in fact... Envision yourself to be that which you strive to become.... remaining intensely focused on that vision.

Following Satguru's path, resolve to fulfill deeds that are in compliance with divine stipulations. Begin by removing the hurdles that come in your way of becoming that which you seek to

become, and nothing will seem impossible. Not even Realization of the Lord Almighty will seem beyond reach! One can shake up the universe with the strength that is gained by courageously treading the righteous path through selfless service. Even super-natural prowess may become available to dedicated followers of yoga; penance and austerity may compel the desired deity to appear in person. Wiping away the darkness of ignorance with the floodlight of self-knowledge, one may even attain permanent liberation, the way King Khatvang, Shukdevji, and the noble emperor Janak did.

On this auspicious dawn of the New Year make a resolution to maintain equanimity under even the extreme circumstances, polar opposite in nature such as pleasure and pain, profit and loss, felicitation or reprimand. Settle within your Self, likening facilities as well as inconveniences with worthless toys and tinsels. Carry out your designated tasks with alacrity; enhance the service you offer with wisdom rather than ruining it with stupidity. Satiate thirst with knowledge and understanding, while performing your duties with alertness and celerity.

Bake bread too with diligence; cook such that you preserve both the health and the appetite of those that you feed. Do laundry with minimal soap, maximum cleansing and without any damage to the clothes. Clean your house and sweep the floor as though you are worshipping. Speak in the manner of Sri Ramji - tone soft, voice sweet, attitude humble, words pithy - honoring others while remaining modest yourself. Everyone admires such a personality.

Deal generously with those that are less fortunate than you do. Never miss an opportunity to feed the starving, provide to the 'have-nots'. Experience the wonderful feeling that will fill your heart upon giving up your own meal for the deprived. Such generosity while may satiate the poor person's hunger for a half-a-day, more certainly

that that, it will not fail in satisfying your own primordial hunger for peace and joy from the depth of your soul:

"Why ever cry in your own grief, learn to smile ever

And at the pain and suffering of others, learn to shed a tear

Contentment is in feeding others, not gorging yourself

Helping your fellowmen is sure to bring you cheer!"

Life becomes worthwhile by offering service to humanity, love for God, and charity towards others. Uncovering the mysteries of the mind by painstakingly contemplating on the Self however, one experiences the grandest experience of all - none other than The Supreme Being - thus serving the entire Universe in a single brilliant stroke!

Do not allow your efforts to go in vain due to carelessness and silliness. Whatever you do, promptly do it with enthusiasm and modesty. Fear need not linger around you ever, operate with the majesty and pride of a Grand Prince! The present moment is the most precious moment of all, so no use in waiting around for a better time than this, better task or a better companion. Simply do what you are doing currently in the best manner that it can be done ... treat the person in your present company as the best companion ... for, hidden in their heart is the same, the one and only, God ...

Thus, the best task is that which is currently assigned to you. Whatever your task, work heartily as though serving the Lord and not men. Upon completion however, wipe out the pride of your performance from the mind. Take a deep plunge into your pure, real nature of indifference and non-indulgence, 'Satchidananda' - eternally blissful awareness!

Thus remaining neutral while conducting ones duties, one may dramatically improve productivity.

Misinterpret not worship and meditation to be separate from commercial engagements. Concurrently practice spiritual and worldly matters for simultaneous enhancement of both experiences. Capability strengthens with the weakening of likes and dislikes. To weaken the polar effect of likes and dislikes, embrace a constant feeling of equanimity, "I am in all ... all are mine". Each and every being is made from the same basic five elements, grounded in Mother Nature. Mother Nature in turn, is founded in the very same, non-dual Self - the one that I too am based upon! Ultimately then, there is not a significant difference amongst entities after all ... Om, Om, Om ... Such sound, logical reasoning remarkably embellishes spiritual and all other practices.

Always, always be cheerful and happy, never to be found with a miserable face. Decide that sorrow does not even exist as far as you are concerned, distress has no place in your precious life. Your life is just brimming and spilling over with cheer.

Cater to all with the same feeling of love and well being, forget not that the same Lord that you fervently seek verily dwells in the incessantly beating hearts of all. Malign not the fallen and the sinful, instead, have the strength to cover their faults and help alleviate their frailty.

Bear in mind that the entire Cosmos is a single entity. So long as you insist on the unity and singularity of the Universe, everything around you - every creature, the wind and the sea, will be conducive to you and your good cause. Trust yourself to be the aboriginal, fearless, self-sustained fraction of the complete entity - God.

Just as Swami Vivekananda used to reiterate, "First, strive to enter the kingdom of God, all else will follow of its own volition. Fellows, go at it with all your might, even if it means wagering everything that your life is about. Upon thus succeeding in entering the kingdom of God, no longer will any means and ends be beyond your wishes; nothing and no individual will be able to defy your will. Otherwise, no matter how much you bang your head against the wall, no matter how precious riches you accumulate, in the end you are certain to find yourself crying in disappointment, sadly leaving this place behind along with its illusions, failed in gaining any tangible value from an entire lifetime. Therefore, be smart, direct your prudence in search of the only meaningful, worthwhile principle - that of the divine pursuit."

A nation that abides by the Guru-Shishya (Master-Disciple) tradition and honors the great Seers who live exclusive to uplift the society need not worry. Even with a few scores of such selfless, magnanimous personalities, such a nation will overcome all hurdles in the way of progress.

Look all around you and you will notice a crazy race towards materialism and blind indulgence in impermanence. All wit and cleverness being expended for the nourishment of the mortal;

blatant disregard for the immortal and the permanent, the eternal Self - The Atma! Regrettably this western vice, which is anchored in the notion of maximizing comfort and luxuries is rapidly gaining ground in India. The shallow end goal of this lifestyle is merely ownership of physical possessions. The West considers the wealthy and the prosperous as the cream of the crop, while in India, the high class used to consist of those that could sustain life with bare minimum resources. The Hindu vision of life has been forever founded in the central idea of wisdom through sacrifice. Such amazingly rich Indian heritage is unequivocally revered around the globe. No matter which nationality, culture, or religion one belongs to, an impartial mind is compellingly influenced by an unbiased study of the Indian philosophy. Not even an utter atheist is

able to deny the brilliance of the knowledge and wisdom contained in the Bhagwad Gita. Because the Gita's message unceasingly yet unfailingly instills hope into the lost, progress into the dejected, content smile into the dying, and an inspiring sense of duty into the indolent.

With a dearth of peace, the West has become a breeding ground for hopelessness and other social deformities, albeit with a falsely alluring silver lining of capitalism. Promiscuous indulgence in eating and drinking while rolling in the lap of luxury bestows not peace and joy but quite their opposites, contributing to the beastly degradation of mankind. In this day and age all vices such as suicide, kidnapping and rape continue to flourish, all in the backyard of a supposedly cultured society. Several western philosophers have addressed the impossibility of cultural evolution in a spiritual void, and have exhorted that human life is a sad waste if it lacks faith in the Spirit. Many such sagacious foreigners have taken refuge in theology, forsaking the ostentatious glitter of the material world.

Writes the esteemed journalist Shivkumar Goyal in his memoirs:

"Several years ago, an educated, erudite and influential young man was dispatched from America to spread Christianity across India. The name of this devoted and resourceful youth was Samuel Evans Stocks.

Stocks was assigned the mission to preach Christianity in the mountainous region of Himachal Province. This region was afflicted with poverty and backwardness, which enabled Preacher Stocks in effortlessly carrying out his task in a very short duration. He used his service and charisma to convert thousands of simple-minded bucolic Hindus into Christians. He succeeded in replacing Hindu scriptures such as Ramayan, Gita and idols of Holy Deities in their homes with the Bible and icons of Jesus Christ.

One fine day, Preacher Stocks set about his base in Kotagarh to check out his range, when he came across a resplendent, carefree Sanyasi (Monk), fully clad in vibrant Saffron colored clothes. Upon getting acquainted with each other, it was learnt that the Yogi was Swami Satyananda from Chennai who was on a pilgrimage in the Himalayas. As humble as Preacher Stocks inherently was he appealed to the Swami to spend the rest of the day at his place so that the two would get an opportunity to discuss religion and its various implications. Swamiji gladly accepted his plea.

At dusk, Swamiji worshipped Lord Krishna, reciting beautiful verses from the Bhagwat Gita. The entire Stocks family curiously watched that uncommon sight. Late into the night continued Swamiji's dazzling discourse on spirituality, the founding philosophy underlying the Hindu belief, it’s awesome significance contrasted with the abyss of excessive engagement with the physical, sensory world. The Stocks' were extremely impressed with the way the Gita and its timeless principles were presented to them. This new perspective on the Hindu way of life, traditions and its cultural bounty was an eye-

opener - it was as though when their time came, Lord Krishna chose to transmute their lives forever through the medium of Gita.

Very early at dawn, Preacher Stocks begged at the Swami's feet, "**Without further delay please accept and initiate me into Hinduism. I have decided to spend the rest of my life supporting the Hindu cause by spreading the good word of the Gita and serving the impoverished at the foothills in this region.**"

Subsequently, Stocks turned out to be very instrumental in building a huge 'Gita-Temple' in the same Kotagarh, complete with many beautiful idols of Sri Krishna. He even acquired ornate

Woodwork from Burma and had the entire Gita inscribed upon it. Vast orchards of apple trees surrounded the temple. "Satyananda (the pure joy of truth) Stocks" eventually devoted his every waking moment and every ounce of energy toward the overall betterment of India. He actively participated in India's freedom movement and even suffered imprisonment for over six months. Stocks was deeply inspired by, and drawn towards Honorable Malviyaji. He wrote many books including 'Devopasana' (Worshipping God), 'To A Waking India', 'Gita-Tatva' (The Principle of Gita). Notably, his book 'Bankruptcy of Western Nations' whose foreword was written by Deenbandhu (savior of the downtrodden) Andrews, became extremely popular in its time.

Once Honorable Malviyaji asked Stocks about the mystery behind his getting himself converted into Hinduism instead of converting Hindus into Christianity per his original mission. Stocks responded, "Only by the grace of God have I been awakened from the illusion that America or Britain can offer a morsel of peace and happiness by spreading the message of Christ in India. The only chance for the real liberation of the entire humanity is through Hinduism, Gita and its teachings. And so, having been completely transformed by Gita, I have surrendered unto India and her Hindu way!"

Author: Journalist Shivkumarji Goyal

Only those nations, religions, people and civilizations have survived and sustained that have been founded in sacrifice, selflessness. No matter how prosperous, thriving and attained to greatness they may appear to be; no person, faith or nation can last for an extended period of time without the foundation of Truth and Sacrifice. Only those individuals have been able to fortify humanity through the power of their visions, who are grounded in truth, selflessness, and the ability to extract maximum spiritual value out of minimum earthly resources. The over-indulgent, slaves to the outward conveniences of modern society may give the appearance of satisfaction and gratification for a while, but they remain deprived from the intrinsic bliss that is inherent in their beings.

As one anecdote suggests, about two thousand years ago a Yunan city was invaded. In the spirit of victory, the captors graciously announced that those fleeing the city could take as many of their possessions with them as they desired.

Most citizens began dragging their stuff as they were exiting the city. Yet much of their belongings had to be left behind as there was only so much that they could physically carry. Defeated and deprived, they were reluctantly leaving with a painful heart. Among them was one gleeful fellow who was giddily marching with grace and contentment. Without any stuff, he was as though with all the happiness in the world...! Empty-handed yet with a joy-filled heart, his eyes shone bright, free of any concern. It was the visionary Bias, majestically toddling along, imbued in his own charisma!

"Oh no, you've got absolutely nothing, I am so sorry for you". How would the immature folks whose only measure of joy and sorrow consisted of 'have' and 'have not' figure out the uninterrupted bliss that Bias lived in? Some such hapless chap took mercy upon the happy-go-lucky Bias, and continued, "How can one be so destitute that you own absolutely nothing? Even beggars and panhandlers have some personal belongings; some little treasure stashed away for a rainy day ... but you look unbelievably poor. I am so sorry for you, guy...."

Solemnly replied the sage Bias, "Excuse me. Poor I am not but those who mistake the perishable, impermanent material for their wealth all the while unaware of the only genuine legacy that is inherent in their existence. This load of intrinsic riches I carry with me all the while, in its entirety, bearing no burden! No one can possibly rob me of my "real-estate". With equanimity and virtuosity, I in my aboriginal form as the Self am the basis for all of the cosmos. Encompassing every single living creature, I permeate the entire life cycle in the universe, that Self which governs the cosmic laws through individual and collective consciousness. I am intimately united with that authority, pleased as can possibly be. Pity me not for no bankrupt I am, save it for those who never realize the potential of a human form, eternally deprived from the never-ending treasure!"

Many abstaining noblemen appear destitute, as did Shukdevji, Vamdevji, Jadbharatji; they may live in dilapidated cottages and frugally clothed, however, they are the masters of their domains as the Self-Realized souls! Not only are they themselves at peace with everything, every creature that comes in contact with them attains to one-of-a-kind feeling of bliss. Their mere existence transforms the surroundings into one happy place.

The Satguru only knows how to continually give - always intent on giving. Even while appearing to take something, they always find a way to revert it back for the benefit of the society. A seeker takes care not to measure the profundity of such splendid characters with the ordinary yardstick of normal public affairs. Instead, a seeker tries to

comprehend the infiniteness of the Satguru's love and compassion for all of humanity. Witnessing the immeasurable altitude of Satguru's grace, the seeker makes every effort to get in tune with the Satguru's wisdom.

Those blessed with intimacy with the omniscient Satguru know from personal experience that the endless ecstasy they receive from Guru's wisdom and graceful glance far surpasses the joy that all the scientists and authorities and opulent of the universe can collectively round-up! The rich and the famous may be able to provide furnishings and facilities; stuff that the Guru may even hold back from giving as it only fosters sensory pleasure. Every dog wags the tail at the sight of a bone; it fulfils the desire of its senses. However, the insight gained from wisdom is quite different, superior. There is nothing extra ordinary about pleasure derived from the senses like the one that comes of eating delicacies; animals too are fond of their favorite food. The comfort of easing into a plush sofa in tantamount to the ecstasy of a pig rolling in mud. A man's sensual craving for the woman is indistinguishable from a dog's indiscriminate lust. Both end up miserable in the end though.

Providing or partaking in sense-driven satisfaction is nothing admirable. Invaluable service to humanity is that of the Seers like Veda Vyasji and other Satgurus who relinquish individuals from the miserable cycle of life and death... enable individuals to experience total freedom...

offer unending respite within their own being... provide the worthiest abode of all... an encounter with the Almighty in themselves! Such true friends of humanity, known or unknown are worthy of a thousand felicitations from us all. May the divine grace of such munificent personage continue to soothe the world that is ablaze with restlessness, for no governance, regulation, cleverness or any other means of peace can contain this fire other than the blessings of noble, self-realized souls. On the other hand, there has been no time when their grace has not been showering upon us. Nonetheless, how we benefit from it is a function of our own open mindedness and excitement towards it. In a similar way that a mule laboriously carries the burden of Sandalwood all the while oblivious of its acclaimed fragrance, we carry about in this human form never realizing its invaluable utility.

The measure of the profoundness of character is this - the shallower a personality the more involved one is in worldly pleasures; the deeper it is, the more one finds sensuality repulsive and gets drawn towards living inwardly. Just as anecdotally a child grabs candy and snacks without a second thought, ignoring precious gems and jewels from the mix. As the child's intellect develops, she will pick up the valuable treasure, discarding the mundane goodies. Such is the mankind's state of being. The immature instantly grab the short-lived, impermanent, apparently exciting pleasures. As the maturity develops, men begin to rise above cheap gratification that continually erodes life-energy with each encounter. So, quit the infantile proclivity for instant gratification.

Unlike the proverbial ignorant donkey and its load of Sandalwood, focus your intellect, prudence inwardly and experience the ethereal heavenly fragrance of your inner persona.

So now come here, after having gone everywhere else only to be lost, stuck or rejected. Stop being your own worst enemy and give yourself a break. Slow down and take a moment of respite in your inner self. Come to the place where Lord Veda Vyas and Gurus of the same kind dwell, mercifully giving up their high altar of supreme accomplishments and reaching down for lifting up the society.

Rare are the savvy disciples who can recognize and benefit from such merciful souls. The land that has such 'Knowers ' and followers has always survived and prospered. The superhuman positive aura of the Guru transforms an arbitrary practitioner into a seeker with a purpose, eventually converting the seeker into the sought...! Setting them free from the unceasing cycle of life and death. This one-of-a-kind ultimate liberation is only possible by the presence, intervention and blessings of the Satguru; not with the combined might of the world's entire prowess, means, resources and riches.

Blessed are those who are diligently mindful of receiving and disseminating the grace of such Self-Realized Satgurus.

The need of the day, mostly, is a few such forceful men who are akin with the Self and will vitalize others just as much. Sinful is lowly thoughts that arise out of weakness of the mind and the company of such weaklings. Truth, on the other hand, is strengthening and internally empowering the powerless. Abusing inferiors is a demonic trait, making them superior is the liberator's virtue.

Far too redeeming is a peace-bearing moment... settle in the inner spirit than the illusory largesse of the world's industry. Noble men the likes of Mansoor, Socrates, Jesus, Moses, Buddha, Mahavir, Kabir and Nanak all attained to their eminence by anchoring in their Self, The God. You too should strive to emulate them and attain to greatness.

"Shatam Vihaay ..... Harim Smaret"

Defer a hundred errands so you may eat well, put off a thousand chores so you may bathe clean, prioritize charity over a million other causes, but first, drop everything and sing the gospel of Sri Hari...!

As long as one remains decidedly established in the immortal, indestructible, and the nectarine blissful state of the Self, even in instances of pain, suffering and disease one will witness the miracle of self-healing through self-help. So then, oh unconquerable Atma, for how long will you continue to entangle in the mortal physical body and the confusing maze of its variegated relationships with other mortal physical forms? Arise and awake in your real nature. Countless lifetimes have been wasted in the endless

battle of 'Me, mine... and you, yours...'. It is about time that you reclaimed the self-contained, all-encompassing, glorious form!

The secondary purpose of human life is engagement with the world. Realizing ones eternal intimacy with Godhead, and settling in that tranquil condition however, is its prime directive. If one remains dedicated to the prime directive, the unimportant secondary objectives come about effortlessly. The easy means to attain both of these goals is a combination of virtuous conduct, kind heart, abstinence, service mentality and the gracious company of 'Knowers of the Self'.

Know that the Lord does not dispatch grief your way - grief automatically arrives when you depart from the way that leads to Him. Hence, keep treading the good path with sincerity, diligence and love... draw inwardly... emancipate all sorrows forever... claim your freedom... drink the sip of ecstasy! That divine ecstasy which is incomparably superior to the eight-fold manifestation of earthly pleasures - the ability to see, hear, smell, taste, touch, comfort and luxury, success and pride. Blessed be the one who walks past this myriad of short-lived consolations to claim the ultimate crowning grand-prize of divine bliss!

Understand that satisfaction is not rooted in wealth, but duty. Contented will be the dutiful, selfless, restrained, modest being. Prosperity arrives with the advent of willful resourcefulness and goodwill, multiplies with the virtue of charity, skill, and stabilizes with the serenity of restraint and discernment. Wealth, unduly gained by malicious means produces fear, stress and turmoil and may fade in glory within a decade. Just as a spark of fire fallen on a heap of cotton bails burns it to ashes in no time, so do wrongfully acquired riches vanish sooner or later. Sincere, industrious hard work bears sweet fruit - prosperity thus earned through

righteous means renders unending gratification. 'Real Estate' is only that which finds use for the benefit of the masses, securing permanent happiness for its owner both here on earth as well as in the heavens.

In summary then, at the onset of the upcoming auspicious New Year, resolve to bid good-bye to lowly carnal desires, fatal attractions and deprecating thoughts. Replace them with nurturing vibes, progressive Saintly propositions and meditation of the one and only, the flawless Narayan for a holistic growth of the mind, body and intellect.

Remember that as you sow, so shall you reap. If you squander your time on mediocre, meaningless causes you will gain nothing but mediocre, meaningless returns. If you waste it over average, material reasons you will obtain average, impermanent prizes. If however, you utilize your precious moments for superior objectives, you shall accomplish unparalleled outcomes. Investing every waking moment in the supreme

causes of all, one invariably achieves the greatest good of all, climbs the highest pinnacle of all, the supreme being - God Almighty complete!

You can safeguard your treasures in a vault, but not the limited time allotted to you. He who wastes his scarcest resource - his finite time on this planet, willfully ruins his own life. So be aware. Vigilantly guard the precious moments in this lifetime and only put them to use for a mission with a purpose.

Be intrepid, be a brave-heart. Not discouraged by failure after failures, endeavor to persevere still as you traverse the treacherous path that leads to God. Take the next step... and the next one. You will succeed, plain and simple. Doubt is your only major roadblock, so leave self-doubt behind as your victory march continues.

Obliterate the darkness of ignorance with the brilliant sunshine of knowledge, and take a fearless plunge into the boundless ocean of bliss! And just in case you look around searching, this ocean is nowhere to be found other than in your own heart. Annihilate debilitating

thoughts and lower passions. Incinerate hurtful feelings and emotions. Light an unwavering lamp of enlightenment. Allow a steady stream of divine ecstasy to flow through you. Seek out the visionaries, your true benefactors.

Just as oceanic waves are inseparable from the ocean, so are the ripples of sub-consciousness integral with the super conscious. Converging your isolated fragments of consciousness onto their original source, the super conscious, dive into the infinite realm of non-dual singularity, experiencing like never before, uninterrupted oneness with the supreme totality!

Accept that the waves of this world are forever changing, so why regret the inevitable? Dear brave warrior, why drag through life reluctantly whining and complaining, when you could just as well outlast the challenges with a cheerful, positive attitude. May you ever be found jubilant, joyously singing the sweet name of Sri Hari, sipping the heavenly ambrosia of Sri Hari's mellifluous melodies!

Weed out the harmful offal of desire, anger, greed, selfishness and arrogance with the help of love, enlightenment, perseverance, invigorating humming of Omkar and unrelenting chanting of the Guru-mantra. Fill your heart with the love of the Lord - lovingly worshipping the ever renewing, ever inspiring Sri Hari who, out of love, dwells within your heart bearing infinite love for you. And by way of a pleasant reminder to sweeten your Diwali, where Her Narayan dwells... immovably too dwells Sri Mahalaxmi...!

So now, as you rise early in the morning reaffirm your commitment to serve, pray and seek good health, emotional balance and the recognition of the giver of Life - God!

After waking up glance upon the palms of your hands, caress your face with them and then set your feet on the ground. This way you will always "put the right foot forward" in every matter.

And finally, have faith that the coming tomorrow is going to prove very auspicious, prolific for you. Cheerfulness and equanimity under all circumstances is the greatest worship of God.

"Vanshey Sadaiva Bhavataan Hari Bhaktirastu"

For generations to come, may your ancestry be immersed in the love and worship, bhakti of Sri Hari. May this New Year be the best that it can be.

Diwali Wishes

"Swastayastu Te .....Bhavataam Hari Bhaktirastu"

Wish you all the very best, may everything be right for you, conducive to your progress. May you live long. Along with the wholesome growth of your generations to come, may you all also succeed in your endeavors and prosper. May you become wealthy, healthy and strong. May you overcome your enemies. Most of all, may your ancestry be immersed in the love and worship, bhakti of Sri Hari. May this New Year be the best that it can be!